

three boxes platoon color).

- Combat acetate (one roll).
- Engineer tape (one roll).
- Sandbags (one bundle).
- Pioneer tools (two shovels and two picks).

- Picket pounder.
- Bean bag lights (four, with color caps, and two batteries per light).
- 100-mile-per-hour tape (five rolls).
- 550 cord (one roll)
- Trash bags (brown, black, or green).
- Toilet paper (three dozen rolls).
- Memorandum pads (ten).
- Ink pens and alcohol pens (one box).
- Sharpened pencils (one box).

The platoon sergeant is responsible for maintaining the supply box, and the supply sergeant for replenishing it after each field exercise or alert.

#### **Platoon Box:**

- Bayonets (number authorized per platoon).
- Signal mirrors (five).
- Compasses (12).
- Binoculars (number authorized per platoon).
- Wire cutters (three).
- M60 spare barrel bags and AG equipment (two).
- VS-17 panels (four).

#### **Communications Box:**

- AN/PRC-126 radios with accessories (five).

• SINCGARS radios or AN/PRC-77s (number authorized per platoon, with accessories).

- TA-1 telephones (four).
- Field wire (number of rolls as determined by RTO).



- Extra hand microphones.
- Batteries (three dozen for AN/PVS-4, -5, -7, D-cell, AA, AN/PRC-77 and AN/PRC-126).

The platoon sergeant is responsible for maintaining the platoon box, and the platoon radio-telephone operator (RTO) is responsible for maintaining the communications box.

Each of these boxes is maintained under lock and key and stored in the supply room. Each is deployed to the field at the discretion of the platoon leader or company commander. A pre-

printed hand receipt is maintained on the inside top of each box listing all items in it. All of these boxes should be inspected quarterly during command inspections or monthly ten-percent inventories. Two keys should be maintained for each box—one by the responsible individual and the other by the commodity area chief.

The responsible individuals can presign for their boxes to further expedite the hand-receipting process, but all equipment must still be maintained in the appropriate commodity area for physical security reasons. If individuals elect to pre-sign hand receipts, all boxes should be banded, and serial numbered railroad seals placed through the latches.

The primary purpose of using deployment boxes is to expedite the hand-receipting process and allow the company to concentrate on more important matters.

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# **Hand-to-Hand Combat Training And the Nine Principles of War**

**STAFF SERGEANT RAYMOND O. LESO**

Light infantrymen use nine principles of war as guidelines when attacking (Field Manual 7-71, The Light Infantry Company, 1987). These same nine principles can be applied to effective

hand-to-hand combat. Unfortunately, hand-to-hand combat in most infantry companies is given only minimal coverage at best. But the fact that FM 7-71 specifically mentions using bare

hands, garrotes, knives, and bayonets must mean that these skills are intended to be taught and learned.

I propose using the nine principles, in simplified form, as guidelines when

teaching hand-to-hand combat. The techniques selected for this instruction should be direct and easy to learn and the ones that cause the most damage.

The nine principles, as used in teaching hand-to-hand combat, are as follows:

**Objective**—"Direct every military operation toward a clearly defined, decisive, and attainable objective." In the context of hand-to-hand training, this implies destroying an opponent through unbending intent. To destroy any objective (or opponent), a soldier must attack the vital targets (eyes, throat, groin) and disrupt the opponent's thinking. A soldier can destroy the opponent by a direct assault on his head (headquarters) or groin area. Straight punches, finger jabs, and kicks to the groin will help complete this task.

**Offensive**—"Seize, retain, and exploit the initiative." Moving forward is essential in hand-to-hand fighting. All the techniques that are learned should be taught in the context of aggressive forward movement. Defensive techniques (blocks) should be used only as a means of moving in and counter-striking. If the concept of moving forward is taught properly, a hand-to-hand fighter will always be focused on the opponent's face, punching, kicking, and gouging. By doing this, he will force his opponent to react rather than act. The idea is for a soldier to impose his will by moving in.

**Mass**—"Concentrate combat power at the decisive place and time." When fighting hand-to-hand, a soldier should move forward and concentrate his combinations of front kicks (as a set-up) and fists on a certain area. Hand combinations should never be used in less than three-punch bursts. As an example, if the intent is to attack the throat, a good technique is to kick low to the groin. The opponent will then drop his hands, and the soldier can fire three to five punches to his exposed throat and face. An important note in training is to throw punches in bursts of three or more.

**Economy of Force**—"Allocate minimum essential combat power to secondary efforts." A lot of fancy

footwork may be impractical because of the clothes a soldier is wearing or the terrain he is on. Further, footwork is tiring and only takes away from energy the soldier can use in an attack. When using this principle, a soldier should make his attacks direct and true, with deliberate intent.

**Maneuver**—"Place the enemy in a position of disadvantage through the flexible application of combat power." Through awareness, a soldier should be trained to use his surroundings to his own advantage. Being able to maneuver others by using



obstacles or terrain is important in hand-to-hand combat. Personal maneuver should be concentrated on the speed of forward attack and, when necessary, on smooth withdrawal.

**Unity of Command**—"For every objective, ensure unity of effort under one responsive commander." Hand-to-hand techniques, when possible, should fit the individual's physique and temperament. Every fighter should have a simple arsenal of techniques that may work specifically for him. These techniques should be smooth and coordinated. The more coordinated an attack is (through drill), the quicker and more deceptive it will be.

**Security**—"Never permit the enemy to acquire an unexpected advantage." Being alert and aware of the surroundings should be second nature to all infantrymen. A hand-to-hand fighter should learn (through practice) to anticipate an imminent

attack. The best security, in fact, is to attack first using deadly techniques.

**Surprise**—"Strike the enemy at a time and place, or in a manner, for which he is unprepared." A good hand-to-hand fighter (especially when using knives or sticks) conceals his assets until the very last moment before striking. And once he initiates an attack, his strikes should be audacious and repeated. The element of surprise is limited only by creativity. Throwing dirt and feigning submission are two simple ways of diverting the opponent's intent long enough to seize the initiative.

**Simplicity**—"Prepare clear, uncomplicated plans and clear, concise orders to ensure thorough understanding." Simplicity should be applied in teaching as well as in learning. A hand-to-hand combat instructor should present only simple techniques that will work. The teaching should consider the individual student, the clothing or equipment that a soldier wears, and the likely combat terrain. A student combatant should practice the techniques daily in a drill-like sequence until they become second nature. Further, controlled sparring and grappling should be part of every training session.

The importance of hand-to-hand combat training to an individual soldier cannot be emphasized enough. Within a hand-to-hand training regimen, an instructor can build the individual soldier's self-confidence and also teach him the essence of infantry fighting. Hand-to-hand combat is an integral part of the military art. Teaching and learning the concept of moving forward and attacking, as derived from the nine principles of war, can only improve a soldier's ability to fight.

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